



Charles County Public Schools School News

Important Dates Coming Soon

National Merit Scholar named

[Evangeline Gilmer](#)

who graduated third in her class today at St. Charles's ceremony, was named one of 7,500 winners of the \$2,500 National Merit Scholarship. Each year, the National Merit Scholarship Corp. screens about 1.5 million qualifying students. Of those, only about 16,000 students will be named semi-finalists based on their PSAT scores and other achievements. Gilmer is headed to Harvard University in the fall with plans to study neuroscience.



Graduation 2021 plans

If you are traveling in the area of St. Charles High School and Regency Furniture Stadium be aware that traffic might be heavier during some hours and days as graduations are held on May 28, and June 1-3. The graduation schedule is as follows:

- Friday, May 28 — **St. Charles High School**, 9 a.m.
- Tuesday, June 1 — **Westlake High School**, 9 a.m.
- Tuesday, June 1 — **Henry E. Lackey High School**, 1 p.m.
- Wednesday, June 2 — **Thomas Stone High School**, 9 a.m.
- Wednesday, June 2 — **La Plata High School**, 1 p.m.
- Thursday, June 3 — **Maurice J. McDonough High School**, 9 a.m.
- Thursday, June 3 — **North Point High School**, 1 p.m.

Schools will be closed on the day in which its senior class graduates. Students in Grades 9-11 will not have live or virtual instruction on the day when their school is closed.



Practice makes graduates

Above, Cameron Mills, president of Henry E. Lackey High School's Class of 2021, takes his place behind the podium during graduation practice on Wednesday, May 26. Left, Grady Klaas practices pausing for a picture as he will on June 1, the day Lackey graduates. CCPS high school staff and seniors are preparing for graduation ceremonies that are tailored to follow COVID-19 guidelines. Ceremonies are slated to take place at Regency Furniture Stadium from May 28 to June 3.



SMECO honors STEM teachers for achievements

Southern Maryland Electric Cooperative (SMECO) recently named eight Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) teachers as 2021 Outstanding Teacher Honorees. The annual awards program recognizes teachers for outstanding achievements in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM).

Honored for accomplishments in math and named 2021 Outstanding Mathematics Teachers of the Year are Carrie Heard of Daniel of St. Thomas Jenifer Elementary School, Natalie Gilliom of Milton M. Somers Middle School and Joanna Olson of Henry E. Lackey High School.

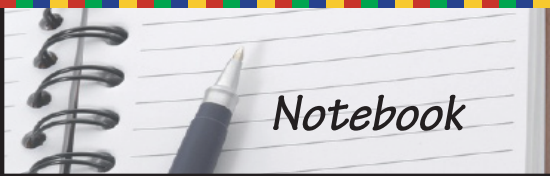
Honored for accomplishments in science

and named 2021 Outstanding Science Teachers of the Year are Megan Swinea of Indian Head Elementary School and Julie Andrews of La Plata High School.

Three CCPS teachers – Jessica Roberts of Malcolm Elementary School, LoWanda Buck of Mattawoman Middle School and Shawn Starcher of La Plata – were honored by SMECO as 2021 Outstanding STEM Teachers of the Year.

Heard is a third-grade teacher at Jenifer. She has also taught Grades 4 and 5. In her classroom, Heard teaches reading, writing, math, health and social studies. She has been teaching with CCPS for the past 16 years and

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On the cover

The Board of Education of Charles County honored outstanding employees at its May meeting including from left, Nicole Ward, kindergarten teacher, Dr. Gustavus Brown Elementary School; and Nneka Prince, reading interventionist, T.C. Martin Elementary School.

Explore CTE this summer

Do you know any students who will be in seventh and eighth grades in the 2021-22 school year? Tell them about the free [Career and Technical Education \(CTE\) Summer Camp](#). The CTE Summer Camp has two sessions that are held at North Point High School. The camps are from 8:30 a.m. to noon on July 12-15 and July 19-22. Transportation will be provided, as will breakfast and lunch. Students will participate in hands-on projects featuring programs that high school CTE students study. Register by June 4 at www.ccboe.com/cte. Contact Sandy Rooney with questions at 240-776-5806 or srooney@ccboe.com.

CRD Student of the Year

In more CTE news, Henry E. Lackey High School senior [Izaiah Hair](#), a member of the Career Research and Development (CRD) program at the school, was named the 2021 CRD Student of the Year. CRD students attend school for a half day and work in the afternoon. During his senior year, he juggled virtual school, applying to colleges and researching scholarships while working part time at McDonald's restaurant. Hair, who is in the Top 20 in Lackey's Class of 2021, is set to graduate on June 1. He wants to be an oncology nurse and will study nursing at Bowie State University in the fall.



Gotta cool truck?

North Point High School will hold its first Touch-a-Truck event from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Oct. 9. The school needs sponsors and vendors. Six-foot-long vendor tables are for rent for \$25 each or \$40 for two tables. To rent a table or become a sponsor, contact 301-753-1759 or nphsevents@ccboe.com.

Changes to meal service, summer meals to begin

The Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) curbside meal program continues through the end of the 2021-22 school year. The last day for curbside meals at participating school sites is Wednesday, June 16. Wednesday, June 16, is the last day of school for CCPS students. The following are updates to the curbside meals program.

The site at St. Charles High School is closed May 28, and June 1-3 to accommodate parking for CCPS high school graduations. All curbside sites are closed Monday, May 31, for Memorial Day.

In-school service of breakfast, lunch, and take-home snack and dinner bags will continue through Tuesday, June 15.

Additional weekend meal bags will continue to be offered on Fridays, and also on June 16. CCPS will operate its 16 curbside meal distribution sites daily, Monday through Friday, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., until June 16. A list of curbside meal sites is posted at www.ccboe.com/freemeals.

Summer Meals program

Starting Monday, June 28, CCPS will offer its annual Summer Meals program to Charles County children ages 18 and younger. As part of the program, summer meals will be provided Monday through Thursday at nine curbside school sites and 10 mobile meal sites. Additional meal bags will be offered on Thursdays.

Breakfast items include a breakfast break bag with milk, and lunch will include cold ready-to-eat meals (sandwich, vegetable, fruit and milk). Parents will need to provide their child's student identification number (report card copy, school ID or StudentVue copy) or copy of a birth certificate to pick up a meal bag without their child present. Documentation is not needed when children are present at pick up.

Adult meals are not available. The

Summer Meals program will provide meals to children from June 28 through Aug. 12.

The nine curbside sites open June 28, Monday through Thursday, from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

- Henry E. Lackey High School
- Westlake High School
- St. Charles High School
- Milton M. Somers Middle School
- J.P. Ryon Elementary School
- Mt. Hope/Nanjemoy Elementary School
- Dr. Thomas L. Higdon Elementary School
- J.C. Parks Elementary School
- Dr. Samuel A. Mudd Elementary School

Ten mobile sites begin June 28 and run Monday through Thursday at the locations and times listed.

- Pinefield neighborhood park, 10:30 to 10:50 a.m.
- Bel Alton Firehouse, 10:30 to 11 a.m.
- Kingsview Community Center, 10:45 to 11:05 a.m.
- Acton Lane/Spark Apartments, 11 to 11:20 a.m.
- Strawberry Hills, 11:15 to 11:35 a.m.
- Hamilton Road/Wexford Village, 11:30 to 11:50 a.m.
- Phoenix Run, 11:30 to 12 p.m.
- Charles Landing playground, noon to 12:20 p.m.
- Hughesville Fire Department, noon to 12:30 p.m.
- Bannister Community Center, 12:15 to 12:45 p.m.

Food for thought

Through rain, sleet, snow and some really hot days, CCPS Food and Nutrition workers endured and did whatever they could to feed children during the COVID-19 pandemic. Meet some of the many dedicated FNS staff and learn about where their resolve comes from to feed the children of Charles County. Click on the picture to watch.





**Julie
Andrews**



**LoWanda
Buck**



**Natalie
Gilliom**



**Carrie
Heard**



**Joanna
Olson**



**Jessica
Roberts**



**Megan
Swinea**



**Shawn
Starcher**

SMECO

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is the grade-level team leader. Students leave her class with a strong math background and the ability to actively problem solve beyond an assignment or class lesson. Jenifer Principal Kevin Jackson, Sr., said Heard is a phenomenal teacher. “Ms. Heard delivers engaging, thought-provoking lessons to students daily. She goes above and beyond to build lasting positive relationships with her students,” Jackson wrote in a nomination letter.

Gilliom is a seventh-grade math teacher at Somers. She works with students in both grade-level and accelerated math classes. She has been teaching at Somers for the past seven years, and with CCPS for the past nine years. Gilliom also has a background in special education. Somers Principal Sandra Taylor said Gilliom is an exceptional educator. “Whether we are brick and mortar or in the virtual setting, observing Mrs. Gilliom in action is an unforgettable experience,” Taylor wrote in a nomination statement.

Olson is a mathematics teacher at Lackey. She has been teaching with CCPS for the past nine years. Her course load includes Honors Geometry, Algebra I and Advanced Placement (AP) Calculus. Olson is a teacher mentor in the Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) program at Lackey and helps to oversee countywide geometry planning. Students refer to Olson as a teacher who makes learning about math challenging yet fun. Lackey junior Grace Landgraf said Olson helped her learn to be confident when learning math. “If it wasn’t for Mrs. Olson’s influence, I wouldn’t have felt the confidence I do today with my ability to successfully do math,” Landgraf wrote in nomination statement.

Swinea is a science teacher at Indian Head and works with students in Grades 3-5. She has been teaching with CCPS for the past four years. Swinea began her career with the

school system as a third-grade teacher and transitioned to the science classroom position two years ago. In 2019, Swinea partnered with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and The Smithsonian to provide her students with engaging and relevant experiences. Indian Head Principal Shane Blandford said Swinea is a master at relationship building. “She completely understands that the real magic of teaching happens when the students and teacher have a relationship built on respect and love,” Blandford wrote in a nomination letter.

Andrews works with sophomores and juniors at La Plata. Her classes include Honors Chemistry, Earth Systems and AP Chemistry. She has been teaching with CCPS for the past 11 years, all of which she has spent at La Plata. She is the science department chair and serves as the varsity cheerleading coach. La Plata Principal Douglass Dolan said Andrews is an example of an educator making a difference. “She demonstrates exceptional leadership skills. Dependable, trustworthy, competent, and driven, Mrs. Andrews personifies what any school would categorize as a role model,” Dolan wrote in a nomination letter.

Roberts has been teaching science at Malcom for the past five years and works with students in Grades 2-5. She embraces technology use in the classroom; she teaches her students the skills necessary to advance their learning. Students are eager for Roberts’ science class; she makes curriculum engaging by providing hands-on learning and experiments for students. Roberts shares instructional practices and strategies with her colleagues and recently completed her master’s degree in curriculum and instruction. Her peers refer to her as a kind, efficient and knowledgeable teacher. Malcolm Principal Mary Finneran said Roberts is an outstanding educator. “Her

dedication and passion for teaching and learning will continue to spark a love of science. She is building our future scientists,” Finneran wrote in a nomination letter.

Buck has been teaching at Mattawoman for the past five years. She teaches STEM and Gateway to Technology to students in Grades 6-8. Buck has also held the position of computer science department chair. She is the related arts department chair, SeaPerch coach and yearbook sponsor. Buck sponsors the annual Mattawoman computer science family night and computer science week. She also partners with the Microsoft Youth Sparks program in which engineers sponsor in-school STEM days and after-school events for students. Mattawoman Principal Sonia Blue said Buck is a role-model educator. “She constantly searches for ways to make her teaching more interesting and more informative,” Blue wrote in a nomination letter.

Starcher has been teaching with CCPS for the past 21 years. She began teaching at La Plata in 2005. Her course load includes AP Psychology, Foundations of Curriculum and Instruction, Teaching as a Profession, Human Growth and Development Through Adolescence and the Teacher Academy of Maryland internship. Additionally, Starcher has coached cross country and girls’ lacrosse. La Plata Principal Douglass Dolan said Starcher is a role-model teacher. “She has an unparalleled work ethic and epitomizes the belief that educators can make a difference in the lives of students,” Dolan wrote in a nomination letter.

SMECO honored the teachers with their awards in an April 21 virtual ceremony.

School News

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301-932-6610
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CCPS provides nondiscriminatory equal access to school facilities in accordance with its Use of Facilities rules to designated youth groups (including, but not limited to, the Boy Scouts).

Have a field day

William B. Wade Elementary School first grader, Marietou Sidibe, right, takes aim at the target to douse Joy Fisher, instructional assistant, during a recent Field Day. Music teacher Madelyn Mazzeo, far right, also took a turn in the activity.

Submitted by Heidi Furman, Wade's PR liaison.



Voluntary COVID screenings can benefit student, staff health

Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) recently partnered with the Maryland Department of Health (MDH) to participate in a voluntary free weekly COVID-19 screening program for students and staff.

This is a pilot program in partnership with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to provide increased testing resources to schools.

Five schools are piloting the program which started on Monday, May 24. The schools are St. Charles High School, Henry E. Lackey High School, Milton M. Somers Middle School, Arthur Middleton and Thomas L. Higdon elementary schools.

The voluntary program is only available for staff at the pilot schools, students at those schools

attending classes in person and anyone who falls in those categories who is not experiencing COVID-19 symptoms.

While the pilot program is limited to the aforementioned schools, parents interested in their child participating, as well as employees who want to participate while enrolled or staffing a summer program, can register in advance online.

More information about registering for the screening during summer will be shared closer to the start of the programs.

Parents or staff members with questions about the program can contact Jason Stoddard, CCPS director of school safety and security, at jstoddard@ccboe.com or 301-392-5550.

To read the full release, [click here.](#)

Personnel

Apply for positions online at www.ccboe.com/jobs/currentopenings.php. All teaching positions require a bachelor's degree and MSDE certification requirements.

Job Openings

Content Specialist for Gifted and Differentiated — Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building, 12-month position. A master's degree in education or a related field, and an advanced professional certificate with a Gifted and Talented Specialist endorsement are required. Apply by June 2.

Pupil Personnel Worker — Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building, 11-month position. A master's degree in pupil personnel, counseling, guidance services, early childhood, elementary or secondary education, human growth and development, sociology, social work, psychology, special education or administration, and supervision is required. Ap-

ply by June 3.

Administrative Instructional Assistant — Malcolm Elementary School, 10-month position. A high school diploma is required with experience working with children preferred. Apply by June 7.

School Psychologist — Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building, 12-month position. Applicants must possess or be able to obtain a School Psychology Certification in Maryland. A Nationally Certified School Psychologist (NCSP) credential is preferred. Apply by June 8.

School Psychologist — Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building, 10.5-month position. Applicants must possess or be able to obtain a School Psychology Certification in Maryland. A Nationally Certified School Psychologist (NCSP) credential is preferred.

Apply by Aug. 1.

Science Teacher — Mattawoman Middle School, 10-month position. Bachelor's degree and meeting certification requirements as established by the Maryland State Department of Education are required. Apply by Aug. 23.

Special Education Teacher – Literacy — St. Charles High School, 10-month position. A bachelor's degree is required and meets certification requirements as established by the MSDE. The knowledge of subject matter and appropriate instructional methodologies is preferred. Apply by Aug. 23.

Compliance Facilitator — St. Charles High School, 10-month position. A bachelor's degree is required and applicants must have a Maryland Standard Professional Certificate with special education endorsement. Position open until filled.